

Salt River Fire Department Response Procedure

Biological Agent Response

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The following procedures should be followed in response to suspected biological agent incidents:

1. SRPD and SRFD shall respond to calls that are suspicious in nature that involve white powders, granules, packages, or letters of unknown origin.
2. SRPD will make the determination if the incident meets the FBI's criteria for their involvement. If this criteria is met, it is the responsibility for SRPD to make the appropriate Tribal notifications and obtain a FBI tracking number.
3. The SRFD response to such an incident shall be: (approach uphill/up wind)
 - Closest Engine and Rescue
 - Battalion Chief
 - Fire Chief notification
4. Upon the arrival of SRFD, any potential victims shall be advised to wash their hand with soap and water for five minutes and then wash their face for the same amount of time. If this is not practical due to the facility, the fire crews will assist in this decontamination by providing a water source and soap. The SRFD crews shall obtain the names of any persons contaminated. Any other decon done by manufactures specifications.
5. SRFD crews shall make entry in a minimum of Level C protection – rubber gloves, arm protection, hood, booties, and SCBA. Crews shall be dry deconned and a 5% bleach solution shall be used on the gloves and booties. Do not directly handle, touch, smell, or otherwise closely inspect any suspicious powders or substances without proper PPE.
6. Entry crews shall be responsible to package the suspected envelope or package with the appropriate sealed collection bag determined by SRPD. This shall be double bagged or placed in an evidence can. The exterior of the double bag or can shall be sprayed with a 5% bleach solution prior to transfer to SRPD.
7. SRPD will impound the containers and transport them to the appropriate research center or store for responding agency representatives.
8. If the situation is of a Gross Contamination setting, the Department of Public Safety or other Hazardous Materials Teams shall be contacted for response.
9. Responsibility for the clean up of the contaminated area shall be left up to the building manager or owner. SRFD may standby during such operations by commercial vendors.